

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Through the Models for Change initiative, MacArthur supports reform in 16 states and aims to help accelerate a national juvenile justice reform movement to improve the lives of young people in trouble with the law, while enhancing public safety and holding young offenders accountable for their actions.

AT A GLANCE

- MacArthur's approach to juvenile justice reform is grounded in the growing body of research on youth development, which calls into question the fundamental fairness of a juvenile justice system that fails to acknowledge the immaturity of young offenders.
- The Foundation's juvenile justice initiative aims to promote a fair, rational, and effective juvenile justice system that is linked to other relevant agencies and organizations and is held accountable for public safety and the rehabilitation of young offenders.
- Models for Change is an effort to create successful and replicable models of juvenile justice reform through targeted investments in key states. Illinois, Pennsylvania, Louisiana and Washington states form the core of the initiative. Other states participate in Models for Change through action networks designed to improve mental health services to youth offenders, reduce the disproportionate number of minority youth in the juvenile system, and improve the defense of indigent youth.



Photo by Steve Liss

BACKGROUND

Increasingly, justice systems across the U.S. have come to treat juvenile offenders as if they were adults: prosecuting them in adult criminal courts, imposing harsher and more punitive sanctions, and often jailing juveniles and adults in the same facilities. These policies have high social and individual costs that receive little public scrutiny. Of special concern is the disproportionate weight of punitive policies borne by minority youths.

In addressing these and other issues in the field of juvenile justice, the Foundation has taken a distinctive approach—one that is grounded in the growing body of behavioral and neuro-science research on youth development. At its heart is the belief that a thorough understanding of child and adolescent development will enable decision makers to develop more effective policies and practices and make more rational choices in individual cases. It is a perspective that seeks common ground between the critics who decry the system as not tough enough to preserve public safety, and those who say that the system fails to consider children's individual needs.

GRANTMAKING STRATEGY

The Foundation's juvenile justice initiative comprises a coordinated set of activities in research, training, policy analysis, public education, and advocacy. Its aim is to promote a fair, rational, and effective juvenile justice system that is linked to other relevant agencies and organizations and is held accountable for public safety and the rehabilitation of young offenders.

Such a system—encompassing laws, regulations, court rules, policies, and administrative practices—would be built on a framework of six basic principles:

- Fundamental fairness for all youth who become involved in the system
- Recognition of the developmental differences between young people and adults, as determined by sound scientific research
- Recognition of young offenders' potential to be rehabilitated and to change in a way that benefits them and society as a whole
- Safety for communities and individuals
- Personal responsibility for one's own actions
- Society's obligation to safeguard the welfare of children and adolescents, to support them in need, and to help them grow into healthy, productive citizens.

The Foundation is implementing its strategy at three levels: developing a knowledge base and tools to inform decisions in policy and practice; developing and promoting model demonstrations of system-wide reform in targeted sites; and translating knowledge into action through advocacy and dissemination.

1. Developing the knowledge base.

The Models for Change Research Initiative, headed by Temple University Developmental Psychologist Laurence Steinberg, forms the backbone of the initiative's research efforts. It builds upon work carried out through the MacArthur Research Network on Adolescent Development and Juvenile Justice—a ten-year, interdisciplinary project launched in 1997 to study the developmental differences between young people and adults. The current research initiative focuses on examining issues raised as a

result of systems change, such as mental health and psychological development of juvenile justice involved youth; benefit-cost analysis of alternatives to incarceration; and racial and ethnic disparities in court processing. The goal is to develop new knowledge regarding adolescent development as it relates to juvenile justice decision making by the courts, legislatures, and agencies; to disseminate that knowledge to professionals and to the public; to improve decision making in the current system; and to prepare the way for the next generation of juvenile justice reform.

2. Models of systems reform.

On a national level, the Foundation has supported a variety of efforts to train practitioners, to promote appropriate laws and policies, to establish community-based alternatives for sanctioning and supervising juvenile offenders, and to develop and foster more effective practices in Illinois and nationwide. While these are critical elements of systems reform, the next challenge is to integrate the elements in specific sites.

Under Models for Change, the Foundation is supporting the development of reforms it hopes will lead to model systems in a small number of states. In Illinois, Pennsylvania, Louisiana and Washington State, the Foundation is working on a range of issues, including aftercare, community-based alternatives to incarceration, and the coordination of the juvenile justice system with other partners in the community such as the education, child welfare, and mental health systems. The goal is to bring about changes in law, policy, and practice that may serve as models for juvenile justice reform elsewhere. In each of the targeted states, the Foundation also is pursuing the specific goal of reducing racial and ethnic over-representation in the system.

Models for Change works with more states through action networks focused on the critical challenges of reducing racial and ethnic disparities, meeting the mental health needs of juvenile justice involved youth, and improving the defense of indigent youth. The action networks link four new states with the four core Models for Change states.

- Colorado, Connecticut, Ohio and Texas participate in the Mental Health Action Network, which is coordinated by the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice.
- Kansas, Maryland, North Carolina and Wisconsin participate in the Disproportionate Minority Contact Action Network, which is coordinated by Center for Children's Law and Policy.
- California, Florida, Massachusetts and New Jersey participate in the Juvenile Indigent Defense Action Network, which is coordinated through the National Juvenile Defender Center.

By supporting work in these targeted sites and bringing it to national attention, the Foundation hopes to create a level of awareness about the promise of reform that will stimulate the interest to improve policies and practices in other jurisdictions.

3. Advocacy and dissemination.

The Foundation has supported efforts to strengthen and build a constituency for rational and effective juvenile justice policy by engaging professional organizations and civic and community groups not previously involved in juvenile justice advocacy. We also seek to expand state advocacy efforts through grants to national advocacy organizations with state and local affiliates and networks of reform organizations active across the country.

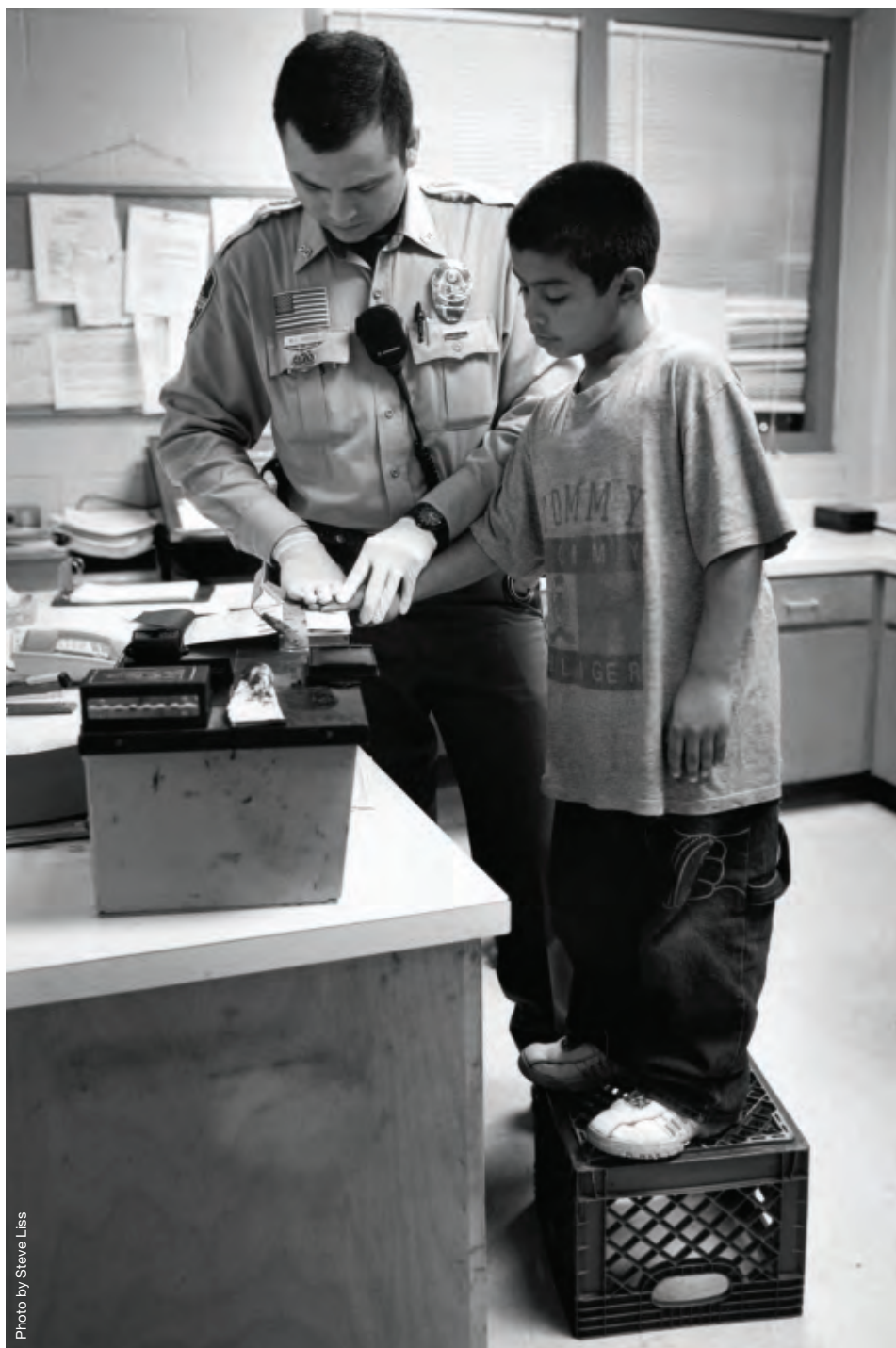


Photo by Steve Liss

REPRESENTATIVE GRANTS

Models for Change Illinois

2ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT JUVENILE JUSTICE COUNCIL

Mt. Vernon, IL

\$349,500 to participate as a model demonstration site in Illinois Models for Change.

CHICAGO AREA PROJECT

Chicago, IL

\$225,000 to develop and implement community-based alternative services and sanctions.

CHICAGO URBAN LEAGUE

Chicago, IL

\$250,000 to fund work on racial and ethnic disparities as part of the Illinois Models for Change initiative.

CHILDREN'S HOME ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

Peoria, IL

\$350,000 to support Peoria County's participation as a model demonstration site in Illinois Models for Change.

COMMUNITY JUSTICE FOR YOUTH INSTITUTE

Chicago, IL

\$446,000 to promote community-based alternative sanctions and services under the Illinois Models for Change initiative.

DUPAGE COUNTY, 18TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT DEPARTMENT OF PROBATION AND COURT SERVICES

Wheaton, IL

\$315,250 to support DuPage County's participation as a demonstration site in Illinois Models for Change.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

Springfield, IL

\$400,000 in support of work as part of Illinois' Models for Change.

JOHN HOWARD ASSOCIATION

Chicago, IL

\$380,000 to track and monitor the progress of implementing reforms in youth corrections under the new Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice as part of the Illinois Models for Change initiative.

JUVENILE JUSTICE INITIATIVE

Springfield, IL

\$450,000 in support of efforts to improve the juvenile justice system as part of the Models for Change initiative in Illinois.

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO CIVITAS CHILDLAW CENTER

Chicago, IL

\$670,000 in support of activities as the lead entity for Illinois Models for Change.



NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW
Chicago, IL
\$356,000 to support the Children and Family Justice Center for coordinating Illinois' participation in the Mental Health/Juvenile Justice Action Network as part of Illinois Models for Change.

OGLE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COUNCIL
Oregon, IL
\$300,000 in support of Ogle County's participation as a demonstration site in Illinois Models for Change.

YOUTH OUTREACH SERVICES
Chicago, IL
\$350,000 in support of Cook County's participation as a model demonstration site in Illinois Models for Change.

Models for Change Louisiana

16TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICES FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION
New Iberia, LA
\$24,000 in support of the development of a model demonstration program for the delivery of community evidenced-based services to status offenders.

9TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGES' OFFICE
Alexandria, LA
\$400,000 to participate as a local demonstration site in Louisiana Models for Change.

CALCASIEU PARISH POLICE JURY
OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE SERVICES
Lake Charles, LA
\$135,000 to support the Community Assessment Resource Center of Calcasieu Parish as part of the Models for Change initiative in Louisiana.

CALCASIEU PARISH POLICE JURY,
OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE SERVICES
Lake Charles, LA
\$50,000 in support of the Children and Youth Planning Board's activities.

JEFFERSON PARISH DEPARTMENT FOR JUVENILE SERVICES
Harvey, LA
\$360,000 to participate as a local demonstration site in Louisiana Models for Change.

LOUISIANA BOARD OF REGENTS
Baton Rouge, LA
\$1,200,000 in support of activities as the lead entity for Louisiana Models for Change.

LOUISIANA COUNCIL OF JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES
Baton Rouge, LA
\$250,000 in support of the Louisiana Models for Change initiative.

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY & CORRECTIONS, YOUTH SERVICES OFFICE OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
Baton Rouge, LA
\$125,000 to coordinate state and local reform efforts as part of the Models for Change initiative in Louisiana.

LOUISIANA DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION
Baton Rouge, LA
\$350,000 for activities in support of the Models for Change initiative in Louisiana.

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
New Orleans, LA
\$750,000 in support of the training and delivery of community evidence-based practices to identify and treat youth with mental health and substance abuse conditions who come into contact with the juvenile justice system.

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
PAUL M. HEBERT LAW CENTER
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
\$225,282 to design, develop, and plan a Juvenile Defense Practice and Policy Clinic.

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT MONROE
Monroe, LA
\$385,000 to participate with the Fourth Judicial District Court as a model demonstration and replication site in Louisiana Models for Change.

Models for Change Pennsylvania

BERKS COUNTY
Reading, PA
\$321,000 to reduce disproportionate minority contact as part of Pennsylvania's Models for Change initiative.

CONGRESO DE LATINOS UNIDOS
Philadelphia, PA
\$260,000 to reduce disproportionate minority contact as part of Pennsylvania Models for Change in Philadelphia and Berks Counties.

DEFENDER ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA NORTHEAST JUVENILE DEFENDER CENTER
Philadelphia, PA
\$300,000 to support training and technical assistance on effective representation and aftercare advocacy under Pennsylvania Models for Change.

EDUCATION LAW CENTER
Philadelphia, PA
\$340,000 to provide training and technical assistance on aftercare to juvenile justice professionals as part of Models for Change in Pennsylvania.

JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION *Harrisburg, PA*

\$300,000 to provide technical assistance and training to judges and probation officers in aftercare as part of the Models for Change initiative in Pennsylvania.

JUVENILE LAW CENTER

Philadelphia, PA

\$840,000 in support of activities as the lead entity for the Pennsylvania Models for Change initiative.

LEHIGH COUNTY

Allentown, PA

\$300,000 to support diversion efforts as part of the Models for Change initiative in Pennsylvania.

MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA COLLABORATIVE FOR YOUTH

Harrisburg, PA

\$100,000 in support of state and local efforts to involve families and communities in improving mental health services to juvenile justice-involved youth as part of the Models for Change initiative in Pennsylvania.

PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF CHIEF JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICERS

Pittsburgh, PA

\$613,000 to improve the quality of education and career and technical skill training for delinquent youth during and after residential placement as part of the Models for Change initiative in Pennsylvania.

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Harrisburg, PA

\$540,000 to implement the Models for Change Pennsylvania work plan, by improving educational outcomes for youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

Models for Change Washington

BENTON/FRANKLIN COUNTIES

JUVENILE COURT

Kennewick, WA

\$450,000 to reduce disproportionate minority contact, promote system coordination and integration across the juvenile justice and mental health systems, and create alternatives to formal court processing for truant young people as part of the Models for Change initiative in Washington.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH JUSTICE CENTER

Seattle, WA

\$1,050,000 in support of activities as the lead entity for Washington Models for Change.

CLARK COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

Vancouver, WA

\$350,000 to reduce disproportionate minority contact, promote system coordination and integration across the juvenile justice and mental health systems, and create alternatives to formal court processing for truant young people as part of the Models for Change initiative in Washington.

KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Seattle, WA

\$446,000 in support of reform efforts as part of the Models for Change initiative in Washington.

PIERCE COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

Tacoma, WA

\$400,000 in support of efforts to reduce disproportionate minority contact and achieve system collaboration, as part of the Models for Change initiative in Washington State.

SPOKANE COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

Spokane, WA

\$350,000 to create alternatives to formal processing and confinement for truant children as part of Washington Models for Change.

TEAMCHILD

Seattle, WA

\$250,000 in support of efforts to improve juvenile indigent defense in Washington State as part of the Models for Change initiative.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON DIVISION OF PUBLIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND JUSTICE POLICY

Seattle, WA

\$500,000 to develop and implement culturally-appropriate interventions to address the mental health needs of Latino youth as part of Washington Models for Change.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF LAW

Seattle, WA

\$225,000 to help representatives from Washington State Native American tribes develop strategies to address the needs of Native American children in the state and tribal juvenile justice systems as part of Washington's Models for Change.

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL & HEALTH SERVICES JUVENILE REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

Olympia, WA

\$100,000 to develop a plan to reduce disproportionate minority contact in the state's juvenile justice system as part of Models for Change in Washington.

WASHINGTON STATE'S ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Olympia, WA

\$380,000 to track juvenile justice reform under the Washington Models for Change initiative.

Models for Change Resource Bank

CAMPAIGN FOR YOUTH JUSTICE

Washington, D.C.

\$300,000 to refine and expand a juvenile justice contact master database, provide technical assistance on juvenile justice communications and media strategies to Models for Change, and produce a series of policy briefs on juvenile justice issues.

CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S LAW AND POLICY

Washington, D.C.

\$3,250,000 to provide support to the states participating in the Models for Change Disproportionate Minority Contact Action Network.

CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S LAW AND POLICY

Washington, D.C.

\$1,750,000 to administer and manage the Disproportionate Minority Contact Action Network.

CENTER FOR HEALTH POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Washington, D.C.

\$475,000 in support of efforts to expand coverage and improve services under Medicaid for juvenile justice-involved youth in Models for Change states and across the country.

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Arlington, Virginia

\$1,375,000 to provide training and technical assistance on juvenile justice and child welfare systems coordination and integration to Models for Change states.

COALITION FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE

Washington, D.C.

\$900,000 to sponsor the National Juvenile Justice Network.

COUNCIL OF JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL ADMINISTRATORS

Braintree, MA

\$1,322,000 to provide training and technical assistance to state and local juvenile justice agencies on rehabilitation and treatment in the Models for Change states.

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY GEORGETOWN PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE

Washington, D.C.

\$720,000 in support of the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform's training and technical assistance for prosecutors, as part of the Models for Change initiative.

JUSTICE POLICY INSTITUTE

Washington, D.C.

\$885,000 to support policy advocacy and communications planning for the Models for Change initiative.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

Denver, CO

\$522,900 to provide information and assistance to members on juvenile justice policies with a focus on Models for Change resources and innovations.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES

Reno, NV

\$2,500,000 in support of technical assistance, data analysis, and coordination in support of the Models for Change initiative.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA

Washington, D.C.

\$600,000 in support of the Latino Juvenile Justice Network activities in the Models for Change states.

NATIONAL JUVENILE DEFENDER CENTER

Washington, D.C.

\$1,425,000 to provide training and technical assistance to state and local juvenile justice professionals and agencies in Models for Change states and to launch the Models for Change Juvenile Court Curriculum nationwide.

POLICY RESEARCH

Delmar, NY

\$3,240,000 for the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice, to provide support to the states participating in the Models for Change Mental Health/Juvenile Justice Action Network.

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AT WORCESTER

Worcester, MA

\$1,380,000 to provide technical assistance and training for the National Youth Screening Assistance Project.

VERA INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

New York, NY

\$600,000 support for data analysis and facilitated strategic planning in Models for Change states.

W. HAYWOOD BURNS INSTITUTE

San Francisco, CA

\$350,000 to reduce disproportionate minority contact and racial and ethnic disparities in the Models for Change core and action network states.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Models for Change: www.modelsforchange.net

Campaign for Youth Justice: www.campaign4youthjustice.org

Center for Children's Law and Policy: www.cclp.org

Child Welfare League of America: www.cwla.org

Coalition for Juvenile Justice: www.juvjustice.org

Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators: www.cjca.net

Justice Policy Institute: www.justicepolicy.org

National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice: www.ncmhjj.com

National Council of La Raza: www.nclr.org

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges: www.ncjfcj.org

National Juvenile Defender Center: www.njdc.info

W. Hayward Burns Institute: www.burnsinstitute.org

Vera Institute: www.vera.org

For More Information

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justice grantmaking

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About The MacArthur Foundation

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation supports creative people and effective institutions committed to building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. In addition to selecting the MacArthur Fellows, the Foundation works to defend human rights, advance global conservation and security, make cities better places, and understand how technology is affecting children and society.

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